

color in their temporary associates. In some places decoys representing only the rear parts of ducks are used, and these ever-dipping counterfeits which never show a head, nevertheless fill the bill; in other localities the bottom in shallow water is simply turned up in spadefuls, making dark lumps and ducks decoy to these. Mr. White tells me that the best day's shooting at black ducks he ever enjoyed was begun with his shoes as decoys, dead ducks being substituted as they were killed. These things prove that on some occasions at least some of the most typically flocking birds do not pay any attention whatsoever to markings directive or otherwise.

AN APPARENTLY UNRECOGNIZED RACE OF THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

BY LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D.

Buteo lineatus texanus subsp. nov.

TEXAS RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

TYPE.— ♀ adult, No. 22355, Coll. of Louis B. Bishop; Corpus Christi, Texas, Nov. 7, 1909; John M. Priour.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.— Similar to *Buteo lineatus elegans*, but breast usually more spotted with buffy, the dark shaft lines of chest more conspicuous and the head and back more rufous.

MEASUREMENT OF TYPE.— Wing, 12.98; tail, 8.62; culmen, .90; tarsus, 3.23 inches.

Sixteen adult Red-shouldered Hawks, collected for me at Corpus Christi and Brownsville, Texas, in October and November, 1909, by Mr. Frank B. Armstrong and John M. Priour, closely resemble each other and differ as described above from the only adult *B. l. elegans* I have been able to examine. They are also much larger than this bird — an adult spring male from California — but not above the measurements given for this race.

These Texas birds are much more richly colored below than fall

specimens of *B. l. lineatus* from Connecticut, having the chest and breast uniform bright cinnamon rufous and the abdomen, tibiae and lower tail-coverts bright buff heavily barred with cinnamon rufous. They are larger than *B. l. alleni* from Florida and have the head and neck not grayish but even more rufous than *lineatus*.

Six young birds collected at the same time differ from the description of young *B. l. elegans* by having the pale spaces on the outer webs of the primaries as large as in *B. l. lineatus*. From the latter they differ by having the lower parts, especially the tibiae, more buffy and the dark markings larger — sagittate or cuneiform instead of oval — and numerous even on the tibiae, which are slightly if at all spotted in *B. l. lineatus*. Young *B. l. alleni* is smaller and has less buff in the plumage, and the dark markings below are even heavier than in the Texas race.

GENERAL NOTES.

Holboell's Grebe in Connecticut.—An unusual flight of *Colymbus holboelli* was noticed here during the month of February, 1912. A specimen was picked up alive in a mowing lot, perhaps two miles from the Connecticut river, on the 9th, the ground at the time being covered with snow and the thermometer near the zero point. The bird could not, apparently, arise from the ground. From the 12th to the 15th, inclusive, nine of these grebes were captured alive on the ice in the Connecticut river. Some of them in trying to escape simply moved along the ice in a rapid manner using their feet for power, but making no attempt to fly. Two of them, however, arose from the ice and flew at a height of from eight inches to two feet for a short distance and then dropped down. Between the dates referred to the river was entirely covered with ice, there being, so far as could be seen, no open water where the birds could obtain food.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

The Forked-tailed Gull (*Xema furcatum*).—Recently in looking over some notes taken at sea a number of years ago (1885) and which had been forgotten I came across the following in relation to the Forked-tailed Gull.

In making a passage from Callao, Peru, to Acapulco, Mexico, we passed in sight of Chatham, one of the Galapagos Islands. When three to four hundred miles distant from the island — both when approaching and when